

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-56 and 58-109 were pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claim 101 has been canceled, claims 20, 58, 59, 81, 97 and 100 have been amended, and new claims 110-173 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-12, 14-56, 58-100 and 102-173 are currently under consideration. Support for the new claims and claim amendments may be found at, *inter alia*, page 10 lines 11-13 and 21-28 (n = 600 to 1000 corresponds to 26.4-44 KDa PEG molecular weight) (claim 160); page 13 lines 4-6 (claims 110, 116, 142, 167); page 57 line 1 – page 58 line 24 and Figure 7 (claims 58, 59, 119, 154, 165); and Figures 9-14 (claims 111, 115, 133, 140).

No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the amendments.

With respect to all amendments and canceled claims, Applicant has not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover has not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicant reserves the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded claim embodiment in future continuation and/or divisional applications.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant is filing herewith a supplemental information disclosure statement. The following is a list of selected documents cited therein, with comments provided solely for the Examiner's convenience. Applicant notes that these references have not been thoroughly reviewed by Applicant or Applicant's representative, and that the following comments do not necessarily represent the teaching of the references.

U.S. Patent No. 5,135,737 relates to organic compounds having branched structures terminating with amine groups to which pharmacologically active groups can be chemically attached.

U.S. Patent No. 5,229,490 relates to multiple antigen peptide systems in which a large number of antigens are bound to the functional groups of a dendritic core molecule.

U.S. Patent No. 6,072,040 relates to stabilized protein-polymer conjugates, more particularly to the stabilization of individual subunits of multisubunit protein complexes by conjugation to polymers.

U.S. Patent No. 6,258,774 relates to a carrier for in vivo delivery of a therapeutic agent comprising a thiol group, wherein the therapeutic agent is conjugated to the carrier via a biodegradable disulfide bond.

U.S. Patent No. 6,323,322 relates to a glycosylated/polyalkylene oxide conjugated antigen-binding protein.

U.S. Patent No. 6,413,507 relates to poly(ethylene glycol) carbamate derivatives useful as water-soluble pro-drugs.

U.S. Patent No. 6,423,685 relates to methods for preparing a biologically active molecule having an increased serum half-life, involving conjugating a polymer such as polyethylene glycol to the biologically active molecule.

U.S. Patent No. 6,441,136 relates to processes for conjugating proteins with polyethylene glycol; the disclosed processes include the steps of deleting at least one amino acid residue on the protein, replacing the at least one amino acid residue with an amino acid residue that does not react with polyethylene glycol, and contacting the protein with polyethylene glycol under conditions sufficient to conjugate the polyethylene glycol to the protein.

U.S. Patent No. 6,461,849 relates to polypeptides with reduced immune response including reduced allergenicity having one or more amino acid residues being substituted with other amino acid residues and/or having coupled one or more polymeric molecules in the vicinity of the polypeptides metal binding site.

U.S. Patent No. 6,495,659 relates to a sterically hindered polymer that comprises a water-soluble and non-peptidic polymer backbone having at least one terminus covalently bonded to an alkanoic acid or alkanoic acid derivative, wherein the carbon adjacent to the carbonyl group of the acid or acid derivative group has an alkyl or aryl group pendant thereto.

U.S. Patent No. 6,500,934 relates to bivalent agonists having affinity for one or more G-protein coupled receptors, comprising two agonist or two antagonist ligand domains, wherein the distance between the ligand domains can range from about 40 to about 250 Å, and further comprising a backbone, wherein the backbone is covalently bonded to the two ligand domains.

U.S. Patent No. 6,537,519 relates to a method for the preparation of a conjugate comprising a first and a second polypeptide, said method comprising the steps of (a) incubating said first polypeptide in the presence of a heterobifunctional crosslinker comprising an N-hydroxysuccinimide ester group and a maleimide group linked via a polyethylene oxide spacer; (b) removing excess heterobifunctional crosslinker; and (c) incubating the reaction product of step (b) with said second polypeptide, wherein said second polypeptide comprises at least one sulfhydryl group.

U.S. Patent No. 6,548,644 relates to processes for conjugating proteins with polyethylene glycol.

U.S. Patent No. 6,562,787 relates to enhancer peptide sequences originally derived from various retroviral envelope (gp41) protein sequences that enhance the pharmacokinetic properties of core polypeptides to which they are linked.

U.S. Patent No. 6,583,267 relates to a chemically modified polypeptide in which at least one of the hydroxyl groups in the polypeptide molecule is modified with a polyalkylene glycol derivative.

U.S. Patent No. 6,602,498 relates to multi-functional N-maleimidyl polymer derivatives comprising a water soluble and non-peptidic polymer backbone having a terminal carbon, such as a poly(alkylene glycol), the terminal carbon of the polymer backbone being directly bonded to the nitrogen atom of a N-maleimidyl moiety without a linking group therebetween.

U.S. Patent No. 6,656,906 relates to enhancer peptide sequences originally derived from various retroviral envelope (gp41) protein sequences that enhance the pharmacokinetic properties of core polypeptides to which they are linked.

U.S. Patent No. 6,774,180 relates to high molecular weight derivatives of activated poly(ethylene glycol) and the like polymers prepared in high purity by conjugating a large PEG molecule to a small PEG molecule.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0007755 relates to methods for the preparation of a conjugate comprising a first and a second polypeptide, said method comprising the steps of (a) incubating said first polypeptide in the presence of a heterobifunctional crosslinker comprising an N-hydroxysuccinimide ester group and a maleimide group linked via a polyethylene oxide spacer; (b) removing excess heterbifunctional crosslinker; and (c) incubating the reaction product of step (b) with said second polypeptide, wherein said second polypeptide comprises at least one sulfhydryl group.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0142964 relates to single-chain multimeric polypeptides comprising at least two units of a monomeric polypeptide linked via a peptide bond or a peptide linker, wherein the monomeric polypeptide is of a type that is biologically active in monomeric form, and to polypeptide conjugates having at least one non-polypeptide moiety covalently bound to an attachment group of the polypeptide.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0197261 relates to conjugate molecules comprising a ligand or targeting moiety bonded to a polymer spacer, a polymer carrier bonded to the polymer spacer, and a therapeutic agent bound to the polymer carrier (with or without a linker).

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0031674 relates to immunologically invisible carrier molecules that connect a plurality of copies of an immunologically active molecule in an immunologic assay.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0032594 relates to sequences of amino acids with the capacity to facilitate transport of an effector across a biological membrane, and to peptide transporters that specifically target certain cell types for the intracellular delivery of drugs and therapeutic agents.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0086819 relates to methods for preparing a biologically active molecule having an increased serum half-life, involving conjugating a polymer such as polyethylene glycol to the biologically active molecule.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0103934 relates to a polyethylene glycol-bound ligand in which polyethylene glycol is bound to a ligand having a binding affinity for a specific receptor or a specific protein, wherein the polyethylene glycol-bound ligand is not internalized into cells, and a medicament in which a drug is introduced into the polyethylene glycol chain of the ligand.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0130197 relates to methods of treating diseases of the nervous system by administration of compositions having the neurological therapeutic activity of human erythropoietin.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0139346 relates to a substantially hydrophilic conjugate having a peptide that is capable of passing the blood-brain barrier covalently linked to a water-soluble nonpeptidic polymer such as polyethylene glycol.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0228275 relates to a non-polydispersed mixture of conjugates in which each conjugate in the mixture comprises a drug coupled to an oligomer that includes a polyalkylene glycol moiety.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently presented claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 252312007500. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: December 8, 2004

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